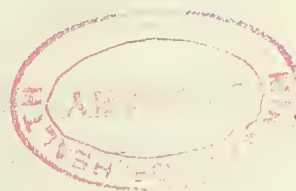


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URBAN DISTRICT OF BENFLEET.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Norman Lorraine, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

including THE REPORT of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

(J.E.Gilbert, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)

for

1941.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.Medical Officer of Health =

Norman S. R. Lorraine, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,  
 R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.  
 Also Medical Officer of Health for Canvey Island  
 and Rayleigh Urban District Councils and Assistant  
 County Medical Officer, Essex County Council.

Assistant Medical Officers - Essex County Council.

J. H. Crosby, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
 Esther P. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
 Jemima B. Ratcliffe, M.B., Ch.B., J.P. /

Health Visitor.

Miss P. M. Richardson, General Training, London Hospital;  
 Central Midwives' Board Certificate, Clapham;  
 Queen's Jubilee Nurse; Health Visitor's Certificate  
 (old and new)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health

Miss D. Grudgings.

Senior Sanitary Inspector =

J. E. Gilbert, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector =

J. H. Rooley, M.S.I.A. (Appointed 28.4.41)

Both the Senior and Additional Sanitary Inspectors are  
 qualified in accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside  
 London) Order, 1935, and, in addition, hold other certificates.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors:

J. M. B. Hunt (To 28.2.41)  
 E. Dean (From 17.3.41)

= One half of the salary attached to these offices is paid by the  
 County Council from Exchequer Contribution Account.

/ Part-time. Also in general practice.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1941.

Public Health Department,  
London Road,  
HADLEIGH, Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District  
Council of Benfleet.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Twelfth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1941.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2604, of the 24th March, 1942, this is intended to be an interim report, and, on grounds of national security, as instructed in this Circular afore-mentioned, certain facts and figures must not be published.

I desire again to express my gratitude to all members of the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and also to officers of other Departments for information and assistance readily given from time to time.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I should like to express my thanks to the Council.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE.

M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,  
R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.

June, 1942.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	6,370
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941)					
according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	5,780 X
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£104,740
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	...	...	£400

In the above and following statistics, several routine details are omitted, as non-essential.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

England and Wales.      Live Births    14.2      Deaths    12.9  
Deaths under 1 year of age 59.0

Benfleet U.D.C.

Live Births (a) I.M. (For calculating Infant and Maternal Mortalities)

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Total	230	127	103
Legitimate	216	120	96
Illegitimate	14	7	7

(b) B.R. (For calculating Birth Rates)

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Total	224	125	99
Legitimate	210	118	92
Illegitimate	14	7	7

Still Births (a) I.M. (For calculating Infant and Maternal Mortalities)

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Total	11	7	4
Legitimate	10	7	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1

(b) B.R. (For calculating Birth Rates)

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Total	10	7	3
Legitimate	9	7	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1

<u>Deaths</u>	252	123	129
---------------	-----	-----	-----

Deaths from puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis	Nil.
Other maternal causes	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

Total number of infants	...	...	9
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	39.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	41.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	33
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	4
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1



## SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

In respect of (a) Laboratory Facilities, (b) Ambulance Facilities, (c) Nursing in the Home, (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics and (e) Hospitals there are no essential changes to note.

## SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. 5,638 houses in the Area were connected with the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company at December, 1941.

Three samples from private supplies were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. Two were satisfactory and 1 was unsatisfactory. In the latter case suitable action was taken and the supply is now wholesome.

Periodically, samples were taken from the public water supply by Dr. Suckling of the Counties Public Health Laboratories. These were all satisfactory.

Drainage. During the year 6 premises were connected to the sewer, and extensions or improvements were carried out to the drainage of 4 existing buildings.

Public Cleansing. This service functioned satisfactorily during the year. Efforts to salvage all materials of value to the war effort were intensified and the results compare favourably with those of other districts of a similar character.

Visits and Inspections. 2202 visits were made during the year.

Factories Act, 1937. 32 inspections were made and 2 defects were found and remedied.

Disinfection. 54 houses, involving 71 rooms were disinfected also 71 library books.

General. 61 complaints were made during the year. These were dealt with as follows:-

Preliminary notices served	..	..	32
Advice given re destruction of vermin	..	..	7
Complaints of weeds referred to County Council	..	..	6
Instructions to Refuse Collectors to collect refuse			3
Complaints of water in shelters referred to Surveyor			4
Sewers cleared	..	..	4
No action taken (not Statutory Nuisances)	..	..	5

19 visits were made to A.R.P. shelters and Wardens' Posts. These were maintained in a clean condition.

In other branches of sanitary administration, the usual routine work was carried out without any essential changes.

## SECTION D - HOUSING.

Fitness of Houses. House-to-house inspection under the Housing (Consolidation) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 and action under the Housing Act, 1936, were suspended in September, 1939, owing to other calls on the time of the Designated Officers being made, and to the difficulty owners would experience where extensive repairs would make demands on labour and materials. Repairs to properties have, therefore, since the outbreak of hostilities, been confined to works necessary to abate nuisances.

New Houses. No new houses were erected during the year.

## SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. At December, 1941, 7 farms used for the production of milk, and 59 retail purveyors of milk were registered.

9 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination of which number 4 were unsatisfactory. Those farms at which the unsatisfactory samples were taken were given advice on the production of clean milk and improvements were effected. In each of these cases the shortcomings were not serious.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. A total of 15 licences were issued under the above Orders.

Phosphatase Test. Two samples of milk were subjected to the phosphatase test and they were both satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods. 312 visits were made to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Cross Farm, Hadleigh and 3,288 carcasses were inspected. All meat found to be unfit for human consumption was suitably disposed of by the Ministry.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. 125 visits were made to various food premises during the year and 9 notices were served in connection therewith. 8 of these notices had been complied with by 31st December, 1941.

The usual sampling was carried out by the Essex County Council who are the Food and Drug Authority for the area.

#### SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There are no matters of outstanding importance to report in respect of the prevalence of infectious diseases. Particulars of all cases notified during the year will be found in the table on page 6. I am glad to be able to report that during the year there were no deaths from diphtheria.

Tuberculosis. During 1941, 10 cases of respiratory tuberculosis, civilian, and 1 case of respiratory tuberculosis non-civilian were notified, 7 males and 4 females. Two cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis, one male and one female, were also notified, both civilian.

It is regretted that during the year, there were 4 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis, 3 males and 1 female, and 1 male non-respiratory case.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. During the year, the Scheme of Immunisation against Diphtheria proceeded satisfactorily, propaganda being intensified when occasion arose. At the end of December, the number of children in the District who had been immunised against diphtheria was higher than the average number for England and Wales.

#### AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

This Department has assumed the normal responsibilities in respect of the Emergency Medical Services (Casualty Services). Three First Aid Posts have been established, equipped and staffed. At the end of the year, Drs. Eaton, McGladdery and Nicholls were acting as Medical Officers in charge of these Posts and a Nurse in Charge of each Post had been allocated by the Civil Nursing Reserve.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1941.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases included in Weekly Returns														Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.	Distribution			Sex	
	At ages																Hadleigh	South Benfleet.	Thundersley	M.	F.
	All ages																				
	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over								
Smallpox ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever .	27	-	-	1	3	2	11	3	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-
Diphtheria .	9	-	-	-	1	2	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	13
(Cerebro-spinal fever ..	(3)	-	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	4
Acute pneumonia ..	(1)	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	1	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	4
Malaria (induced)	29	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	16	7	16
Erysipelas ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Measles ..	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Whooping Cough ..	426	11	21	39	37	43	246	15	7	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	125	122	179
MON-CIVILIAN ONLY.	162	12	18	14	21	11	73	4	3	2	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	61	34	67
Diphtheria ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Scarlet fever ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Acute pneumonia ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping cough ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was not confirmed.

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